

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 8-11 and 14. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue comprising:

a shaft including a wood core and a skin of composite material, the wood having a density below about 9 grams per cubic inch, the skin of composite material having a thickness that varies along a length of the shaft.

13. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue comprising:

a shaft including a wood core and a skin of composite material, the wood having a density below about 9 grams per cubic inch, the skin of the composite material having a thickness that varies continuously along a length of the shaft from a thinner skin towards a front end to a thicker skin toward a back end.

14. (Canceled)